IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claim 21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for the production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

fermenting coryneform bacteria, which produce a desired L-amino acid, comprising an overexpressed sigC polynucleotide ~~sigC~~ wherein said polynucleotide comprises ~~a~~ the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,wherein ~~said~~ overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide or by operably linking said polynucleotide to a promoter.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

isolating the L-amino acid.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the L amino acid is lysine.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for the production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

fermenting coryneform bacteria, which produce a desired L-amino acid, comprising an overexpressed sigC polynucleotide ~~sigC~~ wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide comprising ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein ~~said~~ overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide or by operably linking said polynucleotide to a promoter.

Claims 19-24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended): The method according to claim 14, wherein in the bacteria being fermented ~~comprise, at the same time,~~ one or more genes from Corynebacterium glutamicum ~~which~~ are overexpressed; wherein the one or more genes is/are selected from the group consisting of:

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ dihydrodipicolinate synthase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ triosephosphate isomerase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ 3-phosphoglycerate kinase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ pyruvate carboxylase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ malate-quinone-oxidoreductase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ aspartate kinase,

~~a~~ the gene ~~hom~~ which encodes ~~coding for~~ homoserine dehydrogenase,

~~a~~ the gene ~~ilvA~~ which encodes ~~coding for~~ r threonine dehydratase,

~~a~~ the genes which encode ~~coding for~~ acetohydroxy acid synthase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ dihydroxy acid dehydratase, and

the ~~Corynebacterium glutamicum~~ gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ ~~a~~ the Zwa1 protein,

wherein overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of each of said one or more genes or by operably linking each of said one or more genes to a promoter.

Claim 26 (currently amended): Process according to claim 14, wherein in the bacteria being fermented ~~comprise, at the same time,~~ one or more genes ~~which~~ are eliminated; wherein the genes are selected from the group consisting of:

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, and

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ pyruvate oxidase.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14 wherein the bacteria is Corynebacterium glutamicum.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The method according to claim 21, wherein said vector is pEC-XK99EsigCb2ex contained in Escherichia coli strain ~~of~~ DH5mcr/pEC-XK99EsigCb2ex deposited under DSM 14375.

Claim 29 (previously presented): Corynebacterium glutamicum DSM5715/pEC-XK99E deposited under DSM 13455.

Claim 30-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18 wherein said polynucleotide comprises nucleotides 300 to 878 of SEQ ID:1.

Claim 34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, further comprising:

isolating the L-amino acid.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18 wherein the L amino acid is lysine.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein in the bacteria being fermented ~~comprise, at the same time,~~ one or more genes from Corynebacterium glutamicum ~~which~~ are overexpressed; wherein the one or more genes is/are selected from the group consisting of:

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ dihydrodipicolinate synthase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ triosephosphate isomerase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ 3-phosphoglycerate kinase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ pyruvate carboxylase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ malate-quinone-oxidoreductase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ aspartate kinase,

~~a~~ the gene ~~hom~~ which encodes ~~coding for~~ homoserine dehydrogenase,

~~a~~ the gene ~~ilvA~~ which encodes ~~coding for~~ threonine dehydratase,

~~a~~ the genes which encode ~~coding for~~ acetohydroxy acid synthase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ dihydroxy acid dehydratase, and

the ~~Corynebacterium glutamicum~~ gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ ~~a~~ the Zwa1 protein,

wherein overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of each of said one or more genes or by operably linking each of said one or more genes to a promoter.

Claim 38 (currently amended): Process according to claim 18, wherein in the bacteria being fermented ~~comprise, at the same time,~~ one or more genes ~~which~~ are eliminated; wherein the genes are selected from the group consisting of:

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase,

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ glucose-6-phosphate isomerase, and

~~a~~ the gene which encodes ~~coding for~~ pyruvate oxidase.